value;

assigning at least two different code tables from a predetermined number of code tables to two different spectral sections, a spectral section having assigned to it that code table which is best suited for coding the spectral values in the spectral section;

wherein, in the step of coding, the spectral values from the spectral sections are coded with the code table which is assigned to the corresponding spectral section;

wherein, in the step of specifying, a raster is specified for the coded bit stream such that the raster has at least two groups of raster points, such that the raster points of each group are spaced equidistantly from one another and such that the raster point distance of each group depends on an appropriate code table from among the at least two different code tables.

10. A method according to claim 9, wherein, in the step of defining priority code words, a code word is defined to be a priority code word when an indicator, which depends on the code table from which the code word originates, indicates priority.

11. A method according to claim 10,

wherein each code table has a maximum absolute value for a spectral value which is to be coded; and

wherein the indicator indicates the highest priority when the code table on which the indicator depends has the highest absolute value of all the code tables.

12. A method according to claim 9,

wherein each code table has a maximum absolute value for a spectral value which is to be coded; and

wherein a plurality of code tables is used, where there is an indicator for each table, where the indicator is determined by the highest absolute value of the respective table and where the indicator for a table with a greater maximum absolute value indicates a higher priority for a code word from the table than does an indicator for another table with a smaller maximum absolute value.

13. A method according to claim 9, wherein the raster point distance of each group of raster points is smaller than, equal to or greater than the length of the longest code word of the corresponding code table.

14. A method according to claim 9, wherein the raster point distance of each group of raster points is equal to the length of the longest actually occuring code word for a spectral value in the corresponding spectral section; and

wherein the length of the longest actually occuring code word of a spectral section is transmitted as side information to the bit stream.

15. A method according to claim 9, wherein the raster point distance of a group of raster points is so determined as to be equal to the minimum of the longest actually occuring code word of all the grouped spectral sections and the longest code word of the code table of this group, and where the longest actually occuring code word is transmitted to a decoder as side information.

16. A method according to claim 9, wherein a substantially linear arrangement of the code words with frequency is adhered to in the raster of the bit stream both for the priority code words and for the non-priority code words.

17. A method according to claim 1, wherein the code words which represent coded spectral values are arranged in the raster of the bit stream independently of the frequency of the corresponding spectral values.

18. A method according to claim 17, wherein information regarding the correspondence between the frequency and the code word is inserted in the bit stream as side information when the frequency independent distribution is not predetermined.

19. A method according to claim 1, wherein only each n-th code word of the priority code words is arranged in the raster of the bit stream while the remaining priority code words and non-priority code words are not aligned with raster points.

20. A method according to claim 1, wherein the spectral values are quantized prior to coding taking the psychoacoustic model into account.

21. A device for coding an audio signal to obtain a coded bit stream, comprising:

(a) a unit for transforming a block of discrete-time samples of the audio signal into the frequency domain to obtain a block of spectral values which represent the audio signal;